GREATER LAWNDALE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NEWS NOTES

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JULY 1962

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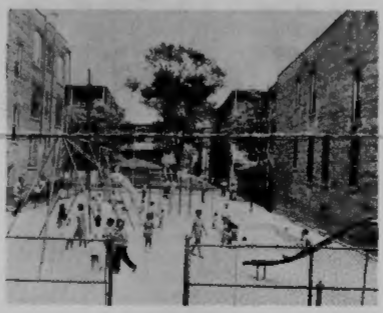
OPERATION PRIDE *turns* VACANT LOT *into* PLAYGROUND

As Operation Pride completes its first month of summer activity, entries are arriving at the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission from all areas of the Lawndale community. This contest is sponsored by GLCC with the intent of encouraging Lawndale residents to combat blight in their area through a community clean-up campaign.

Entries in the contest cover the four areas of homeowner, tenant, block club, and vacant lot. A total of $600 will be awarded to winners. In response to these entries, suggested improvements for homeowners and tenants include painting and cleaning buildings, repairing broken fences and walks, and planting grass and shrubbery. Block Club projects can include cleaning alleys, painting garbage cans, and general outside improvements for individual homes. Vacant lot projects can be assumed by anyone of the above entrants.

In encouraging response to this project, Lawndale businessmen are providing 55-gallon, covered garbage cans, paint and grass seed at discount rates.

For further information contact the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission at 3152 W. Roosevelt Rd., VA 6-3226.



As summer vacation begins this year Lawndale children need places to play. Concern for this problem has prompted the Lawndale Commission to incorporate as an important feature in the Operation Pride contest the conversion of vacant lots into playgrounds for these children. There are several areas in Lawndale containing empty lots which are presently useless as recreation areas because they are littered with rocks and trash. These lots can become playgrounds with a minimum of time and effort if concerned citizens on these blocks organize and begin clean-up projects. In facilitating this effort the Lawndale Commission has arranged for shovels and brooms to be provided after working hours for residents interested in this project. Once this area has been cleared, swings, slides, volleyball nets and basketball equipment can be purchased by funds raised among the block resident or through donations of Lawndale businessmen and community organizations.

Discuss the possibility of this action within your neighborhood and plan a weekend of real community clean-up services for the Lawndale children.

ILLEGAL SALE OF ALCOHOL DISCUSSED

The Chicago Police Department and the Commission on Youth Welfare recently met to discuss the possibilities of a community campaign to "make the residents in the Lawndale and Midwest areas more fully aware of the problems involved in the illegal sale of alcohol to minors."

The problem in this area was described as chronic by Adolph Slaughter of the Chicago Daily Defender. He said that documentary evidence of the sale of alcohol to minors would be made available by the Inter-Organization Exchange Project and an educational campaign would be designed to inform the community about the scale of this problem and ways in which the use of alcohol contributes to delinquency.

At this meeting of the Exchange Project Sgt. Garland Davis from Group Intelligence Unit, Youth Division, Chicago Police Department explained the procedure in securing an arrest and the necessity of *adult* eye-witness testimony. If a resident who is witness to such violations, fears retaliation, the Chicago Youth Centers Lawndale Neighborhood Services, has offered to act as co-complainant. For such service residents phone 521-2012.

It was strongly recommended in this meeting that a local community group be urged and assisted to spearhead the campaign from the point of view of the citizenry. The Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission and the Midwest Community Council were mentioned as possible sponsors.

1956 Bathroom Laws Upheld

A 1956 city code requiring installation of additional bathrooms in converted apartments was upheld in a ruling by Judge Francis P. Hanagan sitting in Circuit court.

Hanagan's ruling was the result of a test suit filed by a group of building owners calling themselves the Income Property Owners Association.

The test case centered around the building located at 4051-53 Kenmore, owned by Hyman Miller, according to *The Sunday Booster* which reported the case in its issue of May 27.

CONVERTED PRIOR TO 1956

The six-flat building, built in 1899, was converted to 22 apartments with 12 baths at an unknown date prior to the passage of the 1956 ordinance. No record of permits for the conversion is on file with the building department.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Louis Wexler claims the building lacks five bathrooms, contains substandard partitions and lacks sufficient ventilation in kitchens and bathrooms.

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KEDVALE SQUARE NEARS COMPLETION

The first 14-unit structure of Kedvale Square will be completed for public inspection in about two weeks, according to John A. Stastny, the builder.

The program of 89 units at 19th and Keeler, sponsored by the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, is the first privately financed renewal job of its kind to be built in the area for more than 30 years.

The three bedroom units (some with 1½ baths and basement) will be offered for sale at $16,900 and $18,900 as soon as the model unit is decorated and furnished, approximately July 14th. They will be financed by conventional mortgages through United Savings & Loan Association.

Stastny reports that inquiries have increased since construction started and a number of units have already been sold.

Youth Employment Conference

"Youth Employment—Crisis in 60's" was topic of Governor Otto Kerner's keynote speech at the Conference on Youth Employment held in June.

The purpose of this Conference according to the Governor was to "explore topics relative to the type of education and job opportunity programs which will enable our youth to become productive members of our society."

Leaders from schools, churches, youth agencies, and other community organizations throughout Chicago were gathered at this two-day conference to hear the various problems of youth employment discussed. Among these problems were the issues of urban and rural employment, the motivation and interest of the youth, the role played by the school system and the special work with slow learners.

Noted among the speakers were: W. Wilard Wirtz, Under Secretary U. S. Dept. of Labor; Ivan A. Nestigen, U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare; George T. Wilkins, Supt. of Office of Public Instruction in Illinois; Edward Marciniak, Exec. Director of Chicago Commission on Human Relations; and Walter E. Parker, Supt. Illinois State Employment Service.

Horton Represents GLCC

Mrs. Belle Whaley, GLCC Board Member — Arthur Horton, Editor Lawndale Journal

Arthur Horton, editor-in-chief of the *Lawndale Journal*, represented the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission at the recently held *Youth Week*. Horton, a student at Farragut School was one of several teenagers who participated in a special feature of this program in which all city government posts in Chicago were temporarily taken over by Lawndale students for the day.

Steering Committee Meets

The Steering Committee of GLCC Block Clubs met June 26 to discuss various programs within the Lawndale area.

Operation Pride headed the list of topics and Mrs. Anna Moore, Operation Pride Chairman, stated the plans and objectives of the project. Members of the Committee were given entry blanks to distribute within their immediate neighborhood. Mrs. Moore stressed the importance of completing the forms as soon as possible and returning them to GLCC. Interest stimulated in "Pride" by the Block Club members promises an active clean-up-fix-up, and paint-up summer.

Mrs. Belle Walley, chairman of youth projects, reported on the large number of youths in the Lawndale area seeking summer jobs. She stressed the importance of availability of job opportunities for these teenagers in order to provide them with the experience and responsibility of the working community.

Tentative plans for fall workshops were presented by Richard Criley, vice-chairman of the committee. A new approach to the workshops is planned this year with the intent of directing interest to the problems of more immediate concern to the Lawndale residence. Not only will the problems be discussed but specific plans of action to combat and overcome the tension areas will be presented.

KACZMAREK RE-ELECTED

Eugene Kaczmarek was re-elected president of the board of directors of the Greater Lawndale Conservation Committee at the June meeting of this organization.

Mr. Kaczmarek who has been very active in the Lawndale community is presently a merchandise manager at Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Newly elected as one of the vice-presidents was Arthur Solomon, Jr. Dr. Dorothy Branch was re-elected to another vice-president spot and the third vice-president post was left open for election at a future board meeting.

Co-elected secretary was Miss Ethel Vrana and treasurer, Melvin Hart.

GLCC PLANS HEALTH FAIR

Plans are presently being made by the GLCC Health Committee for the organization of a health education seminar and health fair to be held this fall. The purpose of this program will be to acquaint Lawndale citizens with the services to be offered by the new District Health Center. This new center which will be located in the Gold Dome building of Garfield Park will serve the surrounding West side area.

Dr. Agnes Lattimer, chairman of the Health committee, pointed out that it is imperative that Lawndale residents familiarize themselves with the Health Center and use it to its fullest capacity. Dr. Lattimer felt that if use of the services are wanted and needed, the Board of Health will recognize the need for including an appropriation in the 1963 budget for the establishment of a similar District Health Center in Lawndale.

The Health Committee hopes that with the help of this health education program on the availability and use of district health services that the high rate of disease and illness in the Lawndale area can be substantially lowered.

TEENAGERS VOLUNTEER WITH T.B. SERVICES

The Elegant Debs, teenage volunteer group from the American Boys Commonwealth Youth Center, and the North Lawndale Junior Society have agreed to assist with the GLCC sponsored T.B. survey. This survey which begins July 9, offers free public services to the Lawndale residents.

Arletha Henaon is president of the Debs group and Mrs. W. Ray from the Youth Center is the group leader. Working on the committee will be Miss Henson, Sandra Thomas, Val Myers, Sandra Liberty, Gloria Duncan, Elaine Rivers, Jimmy Hall, Joan Thomas, Lorrain Johnson, and Dorothy Brewer.

Assisting from the North Lawndale Junior Society will be Anita Wilson, Geraldine Caradine, Donna McConney, Ione Timmons, Dorothy Galloway, Ethel Hofford, and Belle Whaley, sponsor.

These services will be available at Homan and Arthington Monday, July 9 through Friday, July 13. Beginning Monday and Tuesday, August 27 and 28, T.B. services will be held at Homan and Ogden. Wednesday and Thursday, August 29 and 30, volunteers will be at Kedzie and Roosevelt Road.

PARENTS PROTEST MOBILE SCHOOL UNITS

Angry Lawndale parents protested the use of mobile classrooms last month by picketing the Douglas Park mobile site. This was the third picket line lead by the Chicago Committee on Racial Equality, Chicago affiliate of the Congress of Racial Equality, against the west side mobiles. CORE leaflets stating "WILLIS WAGONS UNWELCOME HERE, No Confidenec in Temporary School Boxes," expressed the feeling of the picketers.

CORE's first picket line protesting the mobile unit was held on March 3 and the second on April 11. Chairman of the CORE's West Side Unit and leader of the June 4th picket line is Carter D. Jones.

The reason for these protests stated CORE are that; 1) the trailers keep too many pupils in one school; 2) they take up needed playground space; 3) they waste the taxpayer's money; 4) they promote racial segregation. In speaking with school officials on this problem Dr. Faith Rich, C.O.R.E. Schools Chairman, stated that "School officials refused to discuss the possibilities of under-utilized classrooms in other districts."

Dr. Rich also stated that the "mobile classrooms have failed to end crowding . . . Classes in the home schools supposedly relieved by these mobiles on the west side ran from 40 to 50 pupils per classroom." She further suggests alleviation of this problem by possible use of bus transportation in taking Lawndale students to less crowded school in other districts. Dr. Rich called attention to a meeting held on June 22, which featured Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, notable for having been cited by the U. S. Supreme Court in their 1954 de-segregation decision. Dr. Clark called for the immediate resignation of school superintendent, Benjamin C. Willis as a necessary prerequisite to equal educational opportunity in Chicago's Public Schools. He called Willis' school transfer program "sufficient reason by itself for his dismissal." He further stated that the successful desegregation of a school system depends on the vision and understanding of the chief administrator.

Geo. S. Harris
Pres. Metropolitan
Ins. Co.

Eugene Kaczmarek
Pres. GLCC

Rev. C. S. Hampton
Pres. Lawndale Ministers
Civic League

HARRIS SPEAKS ON NEGRO LEADERSHIP

"Negro Leadership and the Future of the American City" was the subject of a speech given by George Harris, president of the Metropolitan Mutual Life Insurance Company, at a recent meeting of the Lawndale Minister's Civic League.

Mr. Harris stated that the "future of our great cities will be determined by the manner in which they solve the race problem within their midst" and an effective solution to this problem can only come when "the *solution makers*, both public and private, respect the unfettered, independent forthright participation of qualified, dedicated and honest Negro leadership." But, he added "the solution makers will *never* show this respect until we as Negroes demand it and make it clear, through our willingness to lead, that we intend to participate in every decision that effects us and the general well being of our city."

"There is an appalling leadership crisis in Chicago today," said Harris, and the Negro people are crying for "leadership, a leadership that cares, a leadership that they can trust, a leadership that they can respect, a leadership that they can know and feel."

A two-fold leadership campaign was proposed for continuing "to voice our sentiments before the city's policy makers and at the same time," "take the cause of democracy to our own people, regardless of their status, regardless of their status, regardless of their education, regardless of neighborhood, regardless of religion."

SEARS, ROEBUCK RECEIVES 'GOOD NEIGHBOR' AWARD

The 1962 "Community Good Neighbor" plaque was recently awarded to Sears, Roebuck Co. for its "outstanding neighborhood beautification program" around its main headquarters at 925 S. Homan Avenue.

This award, given by the Chicago Association of Commerce, climaxed the 50th annual spring Clean-up, Paint-up, and Light-up campaign.

GLCC ARRANGES FREE CAMP EXAMINATIONS

The Health Committee of the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, headed by Dr. Agnes Lattimer, secured the aid of several Lawndale doctors for the free examination of youngsters going to Camp Sears this summer.

The examination was held June 29th in anticipation of the opening session beginning July 3. Camp activities at Sears close August 25.

Those Doctors volunteering their services include, Dr. S. Rosen, Dr. Earl E. Roberts, Dr. T. C. Henderson, Dr. Lenin Pellegrino, and Dr. Toman.

HOY NAMED CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION ON YOUTH WELFARE

Patrick H. Hoy has assumed active chairmanship of the Commission on Youth Welfare after his appointment by Mayor Richard L. Daley in June. Mr. Hoy is President of the Material Services Division, General Dynamics Corporation, 300 West Washington Street. He also serves as Senior Vice-President of General Dynamics.

Long active in civic affairs, Mr. Hoy was honored in 1959 with Mayor Daley's Chicago Medal of Merit, and with the Josiah Holbrook Award of the Adult Education Council of Greater Chicago. In 1959, he was named Man-of-the-Year by the American Guild of Variety Artists Foundation.

He is Secretary of the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Foundling Home, and the Board of Lay Trustees of Loyola University.

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Defense attorneys Harry G. Fins, Favil Berns and Sam Bass contend that the 1956 law cannot apply retroactively to structures built many years before the code was adopted.

Judge Hanagan issued a mandatory injunction requiring Miller to comply with the 1956 ordinance. Failure to comply will result in contempt of court charges and an order to vacate the premises.

ENTER OPERATION PRIDE NOW!

OPERATION PRIDE CONTEST

I would like to enter the 1961 home improvement contest, Operation Pride, sponsored by the Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission.

Please check one and return to Greater Lawndale C. C., 3152 West Roosevelt Road.

Home_____ Tenant_____ Vacant Lot_____

Block Club_____

Your name_____

Address_____

Telephone_____

NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS CONFERENCE ON RACE PROBLEMS TO BE HELD

A National Conference on Religion and Race representing Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish groups will be convened in Chicago next January. The conference, the first such meeting across major religious lines, will mark the centennial of President Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Purpose of the Conference "is to bring the joint moral force of the churches and synagogues to bear on the problem of racial segregation. The meeting will deal with the distinct role that religion and religious institutions have to play in removing racial segregation and securing acceptance for all Americans. The conveners hope it will begin a broader religious attack on problems of racial injustice."

Honorary co-chairmen for this committee are: His Eminence Albert Cardinal Meyer, Archbishop of Chicago; Rabbi Ernst Lorge, President of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, and Mr. George Sisler, President of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago. The Hon. James B. Parsons of the U.S. District Court will serve as Chairman of the group.

NOTICE

NEWS NOTES will be published by GLCC during summer months until Lawndale Journal returns for publication in the fall.

VACATION CENTER OPENS AT ST. AGATHA

A Chicago Youth Organization Vacation Center opened at St. Agatha, 1417 S. Kedzie, Monday, June 25th. All children ages 6 to 13 are welcome at the center which will be open Monday through Friday until August. The program is free. Free milk is distributed to participants daily. Among the activities provided for the children are crafts, swimming, and sports. The program, under the direction of Rev. Daniel J. Mallette, is staffed with two Sisters and parish volunteers.

GREATER LAWNDALE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

President ..... Eugene A. Kaczmarek

Vice Presidents ..... Dr. Dorothy Branch

Arthur Solomon, Jr.

Secretary ..... Ethel Vrana

Treasurer ..... Melvin A. Hart

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